

had made its way into the Constitution without Mississippi's official approval. As for the ensuing 130 years, that resolution of rejection remained the Mississippi Legislature's official pronouncement on the 13th amendment. Indeed, for many years, Mississippi's was the only State legislature—in the Union well before and long after that particular constitutional amendment was proposed and ratified—never to approve it. But all of that changed earlier this year. An undotted historical "i" and an uncrossed social "t" were duly dotted and crossed when the Mississippi Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 547 on March 16, 1995, to not only postratify the 13th amendment but, also, to finally rescind the embarrassing 1865 resolution of rejection.

TRIBUTE TO REVOLUTIONARY
WAR HERO COMMODORE JOHN
BARRY SEPTEMBER 13, 1995

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to a great Revolutionary War Hero, Commodore John Barry.

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of Commodore Barry's birth. Born in 1745 in Ireland, he moved to Philadelphia approximately 15 years later, where he prospered as a shipmaster and owner. While in Philadelphia, he became a strong supporter of the Revolution, fervently espousing the doctrine of independence from the British Government. When the Revolution broke out, he enthusiastically offered his services to the Continental Congress, which gave him an independent command as captain of the brig *Lexington*. Less than 1 month after his commission, Captain Barry captured the first British warship to be taken under Continental Congress authority.

Recognizing his great service in the fight for independence, the Continental Congress issued him another commission, as captain of the *Effingham*. Despite his eagerness to serve the cause, he was unable to launch the 32 gun vessel owing to the British occupation of Philadelphia. Nevertheless, using his ingenuity, resolve, and dedication to the Colonies, Captain Barry, with four small boats, captured two transports and a schooner during a daring raid in lower Delaware. This gallant effort brought the due praise of General Washington.

Receiving another command aboard the *Raleigh*, Barry stubbornly defended the vessel against superior forces when confronted by the British on September 28, 1778. Outgunned, he was forced to beach the ship, but managed to save most of his crew. In 1781, Barry took command of the *Alliance*, and defeated the sloops H.M.S. *Atalanta* and H.M.S. *Trepassey*. In the last sea battle of the Revolution, Barry defeated the H.M.S. *Sybil*, adding this final victory of his list of successes in fighting for our young Nation.

After the Revolution, in 1794, Barry was named the senior captain of the U.S. Navy. Four years later, President George Washington recognized Barry's enormous contribution to our independence, appointing him commodore. He served as the head of the U.S. Navy until his death, on September 12, 1803.

Commodore Barry's distinguished service to our country reminds us of the challenges that we, as a young nation, faced during our struggle for independence. Now, as we approach the 21st century, we should reflect back upon the heroes of our past, to remind ourselves of their efforts to improve our great Nation. By following their example, we can prosper in this new era. Indeed, we face a promising future if we conduct ourselves with the same honor, courage, and dedication as did Commodore John Barry.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST
ABDUCTED IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, once again the Indian Government has shown its blatant disrespect for basic human rights. On September 6, 1995, Mr. Jaswant Singh Khalsa, the general secretary of the Human Rights Wing [Shiromani Akali Dal] was washing his car in front of his house in Amritsar, Punjab, when he was taken away by police in a van. The police have refused to reveal Mr. Khalsa's whereabouts. He has not been brought before a magistrate. Amnesty International has expressed fear that he may be tortured.

Mr. Khalsa had been instrumental in exposing the fact that 25,000 Sikhs have been cremated in Punjab, Khalistan, and then listed as unidentified while their families continue to await any word about them. Some of my colleagues and I have brought these cremations to the attention of this House previously. They are being done to destroy evidence of a campaign of extrajudicial killings in Punjab.

The superintendent of police in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab, Khalistan, has been quoted as saying "We have made 25,000 disappear. It is easy to make one more disappear." According to Amnesty International, this threat was made shortly after Mr. Khalsa filed a petition in court on behalf of the cremated Sikhs. This is not an idle threat. The Indian regime is quite capable of making Mr. Khalsa disappear without a trace.

Mr. Khalsa's "disappearance" appears to be part of a pattern of increased repression instituted by the Indian Government in the wake of the assassination of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh. According to newspaper reports and Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann, who has himself been a victim of the regime's repression, both the central government and the state government of Punjab have resorted to mass arrests in the wake of the assassination. But Mr. Mann warned that this repression will be counterproductive, and he is correct. Another wave of massive human rights violations against the Sikh people will only produce more suffering and more hatred.

Amnesty International has issued an urgent action bulletin seeking an independent and impartial inquiry to establish Mr. Khalsa's whereabouts and assurances that, if in police custody, he be allowed immediate access to lawyers and relatives and be promptly brought before a magistrate. If India is the democracy it claims to be, these actions are the least the regime can do.

Since 1984, the Indian regime has reportedly killed more than 120,000 Sikhs. In addition, the regime has killed over 150,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 43,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, and others, and thousands of Dalits, or black untouchables. The State Department reported in its country report for 1994 that between 1991 and 1993, the regime paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. Mr. Khalsa's disappearance is part of a pattern of repression that belies India's claim to be a democracy.

In the face of this kind of repression, leaders of the Sikh Nation declared independence on October 7, 1987, claiming a separate, sovereign country of Khalistan. India's brutal occupation of Khalistan has only led to continued bloodshed and repression. That serves nobody's interest. Mr. Khalsa's disappearance demonstrates yet again that the Indian Government has not done anything to bring the human rights abuses to a stop. Only when the repression and bloodshed end can peace, prosperity, and stability be restored to the Indian subcontinent. I urge the Indian regime to release Jaswant Singh Khalsa and all other political prisoners.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AR-
LINGTON CELEBRATES 100
YEARS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1995

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas at Arlington, which is in the 24th Congressional District of Texas, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. I'm very proud to represent such a distinguished institution and over the years have formed strong friendships with many of the fine people who work there. I have always been struck by the level of commitment of excellence at UTA. Over the years, this institution has grown from a junior college to university which now offers 55 baccalaureate, 60 masters, and 19 doctoral degrees. UTA is now the second-largest institution within the University of Texas system, with a student enrollment of over 22,000.

UTA, located in the heart of the city of Arlington, is an integral part of the community, contributing vast resources to all citizens of Arlington.

This level of excellence which has brought the university to this centennial celebration will guide it into the 21st century. Top scholars from around the country have come to UTA because of its national and international reputation. Faculty at UTA have always been committed to teaching excellence and fostering student achievement and have excelled at accommodating the returning student, who is starting a new career or building on his current one. This environment is imperative for universities in today's world.

I look forward to working with UTA in the future, and again congratulate the university upon this occasion.